RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 2nd April, 1998/12th chaitra, 1920 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, **(Mr. Chairman)** *in the Chair.*

SHRI MRINAL SEN (Nominated): Sir, I want to raise a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, no point of order in the beginning... (*Interruptions*) Let me see... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MRINAL SEN: This is not fair because I had written to you...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not proper to start the proceedings with a point of order because there is nothing in the Order Paper...(*Interruptions*) The point is this. There is nothing in the Order Paper on which you can raise a point of order.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri M.S. Ramachandran, a former Member of the Rajya Sabha, on the 31st March, 1998, at the age of 75.

Born at Madurai in May 1923, Shri Ramachandran had his education at S.M.S. High School, Karaikudi and American College, Madurai. A trade unionist, Shri Ramachandran was closely associated with several labour organisations and espoused the cause of the working class and down-trodden sections of the society. He was President of the Indian National Textile Workers' Federation and Vice-President of the Indian National Trade Union Congress, Tamil Nadu, and Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha. He was also member of the National Productivity Council and National Safety Council.

Shri Ramachandran represented the State of Tamil Nadu in this House from June 1980 to June 1986. He also served as a Member of the Committee on Public Undertakings from 1982 to 1984.

In the passing away of Shri M.S. Ramachandran, the country has lost a veteran trade union leader.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri M.S. Ramachandran.

I request the Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved family our sense of profound sorrow and deep sympathy.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI R.K. KUMAR): Sir, I lay on the Table—

(i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notification of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944, togeter with explanatory memoranda on the Notifications:—

(1) G.S.R. No. 49(E), dated the 23rd January, 1998, publishing the Central Excise (First Amendment) Rules, 1998.

(2) G.S.R. No. 668(E), dated the 26th November, 1997, publishing the Central Excise (Twelfth Amendment) Rules, 1997.

(3) G.S.R. No. 694(E), dated the 11th December, 1997, publishing the Central Excise (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 1997.

[Placed in Library, for (1) to (3) *See* No LT 147/14898]

(ii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), Notification S.O. No. 714(E), dated the 7th October, 1997, regarding declaration of Industrially Backward Districts of the country for availing the benefit of tax holiday u/s 80-IA of the Income Tax Act, 1961, under section 296 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 98]

(iii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue):—

(1) G.S.R. No. 20(E), dated the 5th January, 1998, publishing the Corrigendum to Notification No. 20/97-Central Excise (N.T.), dated the 9th July, 1997.

(2) G.S.R. No. 22(E), dated the 7th January, 1998, publishing the Corrigendum to Notification No. 49/97-Central Excise (N.T.), dated the 8th September, 1997.

(3) G.S.R. No. 23(E), dated the 7th January, 1998, publishing the Corrigendum to Notification No. 59/97-Central Excise (N.T.), dated the 26th November, 1997).

[Placed in Library, for (1) to (3) *See* No. LT 149/98]

RE. DEMAND FOR CLARIFICATION ON NEWS-ITEMS WITH REGARD TO DISMISSAL OF DMK GOVT. IN TAMIL NADU

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we move on to the reply, Shri Pranab Mukherjee wanted to make a point.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: (West Bengal) Before the Prime Minister begins his reply to the debate, Sir, I would like to draw his attention to a newsitem, which appeared in today's *Indian Express* as well as other newspapers, that one of his Cabinet colleagues, Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam, promises Tamil Nadu relief from the DMK Government. Another newsitem says that the AIADMK leader, Jayalalithaji, has come to meet the Prime Minister with the demand of dismissal of the DMK Government. I do not know the authenticity of the newsitems. But as the Prime Minister is going to reply to the debate on the Motion of thanks on President's Address, I would request him to clarify the position as to whether the dismissal of any State Government including that of the Tamil Nadu Government is on the agenda of the Government. I would not like to disturb the Prime Minister because we are all ready to listen to him and it was also decided that his reply would be the first item soon after laying of the Papers. I would only request him earnestly to clarify the position.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: (Kerala) Sir, I would also want to know...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. As a matter of fact, somebody from the Congress Party came and said that only one Member would raise... *(interruptions)* He told me that out of the two, only one would raise it... *(Interruptions)*

No, no that is wrong. They told me that out of the two only one will speak.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I have given notice. The practice is, it will go to individuals.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your party is not united... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I am Sorry, Sir, you are the Chairman, you are the Vice-President of India. You are not expected to make such a comment... *(Interruptions)*... you are not expected to make such a comment... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry... *(Interruptions)*... I have no idea of the reference... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I am sorry, Sir. He talked to me... *(Interruptions)*... You cannot say like this... *(Interruptions)*... You were a member of this House... *(Interruptions)*...